

Inter American Subcom
House Foreign Affairs

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In Committee - 4

ment officers killed in the line of duty while enforcing criminal laws.

Background. According to FBI statistics, 80 law enforcement officers were slain in the line of duty in the first eight months of 1971, compared with 67 in the corresponding period of 1970. A total of 100 law enforcement officers were slain during all of 1970, and 86 were slain in 1969. In the 1961-70 period, of the 1,024 officers killed in the line of duty, 633 of them were murdered.

A 1968 law amended the Federal Employees Compensation Act by providing federal benefits to survivors of state or local policemen killed while enforcing a federal law or guarding a federal prisoner. (1968 Almanac p. 176)

Testimony, Sept. 29

Richard G. Kleindienst, Deputy Attorney General, supported the bill:

Policemen are facing increased violence. "This alarming trend can only be reversed by professional police officers who are assured that they and their families will be compensated in a manner commensurate with the risks inherent in law enforcement."

Local and state workmen's compensation benefits are spotty and sometimes nonexistent. Payments often are minimal. A federal floor of \$50,000 is the minimum each surviving family should receive.

CUBAN SOCCER FIELD

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs Sept. 26 issued a heavily censored transcript of hearings held a year before on the topic of Soviet naval activities in Cuba.

The 91 pages of testimony described an increase of Soviet activity in the Cuban bay of Cienfuegos during August and September of 1970. Representatives of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) testified that the Soviets, with the aid of Cuban labor, built a facility on a Cienfuegos Bay island called Alcatraz which could feasibly have been used as a recreation area for Soviet sailors. The DIA men also noted that a Soviet submarine tender had been anchored in Cienfuegos Bay during the month-long construction period, but no submarines ever were seen.

The intelligence men noted the construction of two barracks-like buildings, a soccer field, a basketball court and several other small buildings. No ship repair facilities, dry docks or deep water piers were included in the facilities noted by the intelligence men.

The flurry of Soviet activity in Cienfuegos Bay during the fall of 1970 was accompanied by several high Administration leaks of intelligence information to *The New York Times*.

Subcommittee Chairman Dante B. Fascell (D Fla.) told reporters Sept. 26: "What was significant and what became increasingly clear throughout our hearings was the Administration's attitude toward the handling of this so-called mini-crisis. Just as in the case of last year's invasion of Cambodia, the Administration ignored Congress and went directly to the mass media giving the press only that part of the story it wanted published.

"Only after a prolonged tug of war by Congress were we able to get the facts," Fascell continued. "Regrettably, the full facts still cannot be made known." Not

only was the testimony of the Pentagon's intelligence men heavily censored, but the subcommittee's interrogation of Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson was deleted entirely.

The information which was leaked to *The New York Times* by the Nixon Administration gave the impression that the Soviets were building a submarine base in the Cienfuegos Bay. Col. John Bridge, chief of the Soviet Area Office of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told the House subcommittee: "We say it is a facility at Cienfuegos which might support naval operations, including those of submarines. It is by no means to be construed as a formal, full-scale base. It is a support facility, a possible support facility....I must make it very clear that we have absolutely no indication that any submarine ever entered Cienfuegos harbor...."

Bridge explained why the Cienfuegos construction had caused a stir at the Pentagon: "Our people place some significance on the fact that a soccer field was built there—and it quite obviously by all description is a soccer field—because soccer is not a sport that is common to Cuba. A baseball diamond, we would have said, you would expect to find baseball diamonds."

In the transcript, Bridge described a Soviet task force that was active in the Caribbean three months prior to the incident at Cienfuegos. "It consisted of a guided missile destroyer, two nuclear-powered submarines...two other submarines, one submarine tender, a merchant tanker intelligence collector."

STATE-FEDERAL COURTS

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Improvements in Judicial Machinery opened hearings Sept. 28-30 on S 1876, the Federal Court Jurisdiction Act of 1971.

The bill would substantially revise Title 28 of the United States Code, which delineates the jurisdiction of the federal district courts in six major areas: diversity jurisdiction, federal question jurisdiction, admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, United States as a party, multiparty-multistate diversity and jurisdiction of three-judge courts.

The bill was drafted by the American Law Institute, a group of judges, lawyers and professors of law, and introduced by Sen. Quentin N. Burdick (D N.D.), subcommittee chairman.

Its purpose was to strike a balance between the jurisdiction of federal district and state courts in order to assign cases to the court best suited to handle them within the principle of federalism.

Burdick, in a floor speech May 14, said the caseload of federal district courts had grown immensely in the last decade. There were 114,117 civil and criminal cases pending in federal district courts on June 30, 1970, 10 percent more than on June 30, 1969, and 66 percent more than on June 30, 1960, he said.

Testimony Sept. 28

Herbert Wechsler, director, American Law Institute (ALI), and professor of law, Columbia University, supported the bill:

"If the burden on the district courts in matters that are uniquely federal is to increase substantially, as seems inevitable with respect to the proposals of this bill, there surely

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